

The temporary register - UNISON guidance for overseas nurses

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This information is for nurses from overseas who are considering joining the temporary NMC register in response to COVID-19

What is the temporary register?

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) have opened a temporary emergency register in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This allows them to temporarily register different groups so they can work during the pandemic.

Thousands more nurses from overseas who have not yet achieved full registration with the NMC are being asked to join.

What does this mean for me?

If you are eligible to join the temporary register you will receive an invitation by e-mail.

Joining means you can work as a temporary registrant at the Band 5 rate of pay and perform further nursing care.

If you join the temporary register you must work for a registered health or care provider in the UK and work alongside a nurse or midwife who is on the full NMC register.

Whilst the OSCE centres remain open you may continue working towards passing your examination and applying to join the full NMC register.

You can find more information at <https://www.nmc.org.uk/news/coronavirus/temporary-registration/eligible-overseas-candidates/>

Redeployment

Joining the temporary register does not mean you will *automatically* be redeployed to work in another clinical setting. Any redeployment to work in another area should only happen with your *voluntary* agreement. If you feel you are being pressured to work elsewhere and do not feel safe contact a UNISON representative immediately.

Safety

It is the responsibility of your employer to reduce the risk you face in your workplace. You *must* have a personal risk-assessment completed before providing patient care and *must* receive the appropriate training and PPE for the area you are working in. If this is not the case, raise your concerns and contact a UNISON representative.

Choice

It is your decision whether to join the temporary register or not. Speak to your line manager and/or a UNISON representative if you need more information to make your decision. You should not be pressured into your decision and if you wish to continue working in a non-registered role until you complete your OSCE, that is OK.

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How can UNISON support me?

If you join the temporary register, UNISON, the trade union for the whole healthcare team, can support and protect you in lots of ways.

Local support and advice

UNISON has a branch network that can offer support to our members in every employer. Find your local UNISON branch at <https://branches.unison.org.uk>

Immigration support

After pressure from UNISON, free VISA extensions have been offered to many migrant workers in the NHS – and their health surcharge has been waived. UNISON, working with the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, provides free immigration advice to our members.

Professional advice and support

UNISON has a dedicated Professional Services Unit which supports our members registered with professional bodies. If you need help dealing with any regulatory issue with the NMC, UNISON is here to support you.

COVID-19

UNISON resources for health and care workers on issues related to COVID-19 are available here

<https://www.unison.org.uk/coronavirus-rights-work/>

We provide specific information and professional support to our nurse members.

Join UNISON

Many migrant and overseas nurses are already members of UNISON - making us a strong and powerful voice for this group of healthcare staff in the UK.

Join online now at <http://join.unison.org.uk>